GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Family Details on Passports
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai;Trivedi Shri Dinesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to do away with the practice of printing details of a person's father, mother or spouse in the passport booklet in keeping with global practices and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the Government plans to implement this initiative; and

(d) whether the Government has received complaints, especially from women, of procedural harassment in passport offices and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) As per the extant provisions, only one parent's name [either mother or father or legal guardian] is mandatory while submitting the application for issue of passport. It is not mandatory for the applicant to provide the names of both the mother and the father in the application form. In case of divorce/separation, the applicant is not required to provide the name of the spouse in the form while applying for the issue of passport. However, in case of married applicants, it is mandatory to provide the name of the spouse in the application form for issue of passport.

A three-member Committee comprising of the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Child Development was constituted to examine various issues pertaining to passport applications where mother/child had insisted that the name of the father should not be mentioned in the passport and also relating to passport issues to children with single parent and to adopted children. The Report of the Committee has been accepted by the Ministry. One of the recommendations of the Committee was that the Ministry of External Affairs should explore the possibility of doing away with the printing of some information contained in the Passport Booklet such as names of father/legal guardian, mother, spouse, and present address. It has been observed from the passport booklets of other countries available with this Ministry that the names of father, mother and spouse are generally not printed in them. The Ministry is examining this recommendation of the Committee in consultation with the various stakeholders.

(d) The attention of the Government has been drawn to some media reports regarding difficulties faced by women applicants, who are either divorced or separated, at the time of applying for issue of passports for their children.